GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
MEDICAL WASTES
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hospitals in the country do not dispose off medical wastes properly resulting in pollution as well as diseases;

(b) if so, whether the scientists have developed plasma incinerators to instantly vaporize hazardous medical wastes;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to install incinerators compulsory in all the Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 421 FOR 18.12.2002

Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 have already been notified by the Government of India under Sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) for safe disposal of bio-medical wastes through incinerators and other technologies such as autoclaving, microwaving etc., without causing any adverse effect to human health and environment. Under the said rules, State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories have been designated as `Prescribed Authorities` for effective implementation of these Rules in the States/Union Territories.It has been reported that Gujarat Plasma Research Institute under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has developed a Plasma Technology for treatment of bio-medical waste. But, the same has not yet emerged for commercial use in India to treat bio-medical wastes.